

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Initially it should be noted that independent claim 9 has been amended so as to remove the objected to language set forth on Page 2 paragraph 2 of the examiner's office action with regard to the drawings. Amended claim 9 now accurately reflects that which is shown in Figure 2 of the drawings. Accordingly no drawing correction is believed to be necessary with regard to this claim amendment. With regard to the recited "second axel" it is respectfully submitted that this need not be added to the drawings as it is clear to one of ordinary skill in the art that the first and second axel is referred to a front end rear axel and any man skilled in the art is aware that with a vehicle having a transversely mounted drive unit the second driven axel is the rear axel. Accordingly, it is believed that no drawing correction is required.

With regard to the rejection of claims 5-12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as set forth in paragraph No. 5 of the office action, as noted above claim 9 has been amended so as to set forth with specificity that which is shown in Figure 2. Applicants apologize for the inadvertent typographical error with regard to claim 9 as previously submitted.

With regard to the rejection of claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, Applicants have amended claims 9, 10 and 11 so as to overcome this rejection. Claim 9 as amended now properly refers to bearing sleeves 21 and 22. In addition first, second and third bearings are referred to (35, 36 and 37). Claim 12 has been cancelled. In light of the amendments, it is submitted that all of the claims as pending now comply with the formal requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In light of the foregoing amendments and comments it is submitted that all of the claims as presently pending patentably define over the art of record, comply with the formal requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, both first and second paragraphs, and are in condition for allowance.

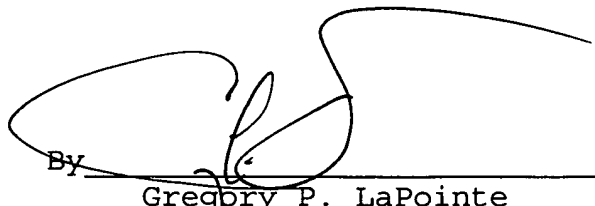
An early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,
Hermann Pecnik et al.

By 

Gregory P. LaPointe
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 28,395
Tel: (203) 777-6628
Fax: (203) 865-0297

Date: May 3, 2006

I, Rachel Piscitelli, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on May 3, 2006.

